

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A flanged joint for a pressurized medium, the flanged joint comprising:

a first component and a second component each component including a facing flange surface projecting from the component and facing the facing flange surface of the other component, and each component having an interior portion configured to guide or store a pressurized medium;

at least one flat gasket held between and contacting the facing flange surfaces of the first and second components;

an annular groove and a working diameter radially opposing the annular groove, the annular groove being located between the interior portion and the at least one flat gasket; and

at least one thin, flat lamella ring held in the annular groove and biased, essentially without a gap, against the working diameter, the at least one lamella ring being arranged upstream of the at least one flat gasket in a direction of a pressure difference between a pressure side of the flanged joint and an environmental side of the flanged joint.

2. (Previously Presented) The flanged joint according to claim 1, wherein the at least one lamella ring is held in the annular groove with little axial play.

3. (Previously Presented) The flanged joint according to claim 1, wherein the at least one lamella ring is arranged in the annular groove parallel to a plane of flange surfaces of the at least one flat gasket.

4. (Previously Presented) The flanged joint according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one lamella ring includes a plurality of lamella rings arranged axially in series.

5. (Previously Presented) The flanged joint according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of lamella rings includes at least one lamella ring facing a pressure side and at least one lamella ring facing an environment side and those rings being biased against the working diameter, and the plurality of lamella rings includes at least one lamella ring biased against a bottom of the annular groove and axially arranged between the at least one lamella ring facing the pressure side and the at least one ring facing the environment side.

6. (Previously Presented) The flanged joint according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one lamella ring includes a single-turn lamella ring with an axial abutment opening of a steel band extending in one plane.

7. (Previously Presented) The flanged joint according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one lamella ring is a single-turn disk-like lamella ring of a steel band formed in a manner and form of a disk spring.

8. (Previously Presented) The flanged joint according to claim 7, wherein the single-turn disk-like lamella ring includes at least a pair of disk-like lamella rings having a conical form and axially opposing each other with respect to their conical form.

9. (Previously Presented) The flanged joint according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one lamella ring is a double-turn lamella ring of a metal band of constant width, and ends of double-turns of the ring protrude toward an inside or toward an outside in a relaxed state of the double-turn lamella ring, such protrusion departing from a circular form provided by a remainder of the double-turn lamella ring, and the ends are in alignment with the circular form of the double-turn lamella ring in a biased state.

10. (Previously Presented) The flanged joint according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second components include a radial overlapping area such that one of the components includes an axially protruding annular collar engaging a complementary, annular recess of the other component, the other component having an inner circumferential surface forming the working diameter.

11. (Previously Presented) The flanged joint according to claim 10, wherein the annular groove opens toward an environment side and is formed in the axially protruding annular collar.

12. (Previously Presented) The flanged joint according to Claim 9, wherein the metal band is a steel band.